

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6491

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11207

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, VN, TH

SUBJECT: DRV-GOP JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST 8, 1975

REF: MANILA 11157 (NOTAL)

1. ON MORNING AUGUST 13, PRESIDENT MARCOS ASKED ME TO HIS OFFICE WHERE I FOUND HIM WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET PRESIDENT SAID HE WISHED CONVEY FORMAL APOLOGY TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE INCREDIBLE ACTION OF AMBASSADOR MANGILA IN SIGNING UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNIQUE WITH GOVERNMENT OF NORTH VIET-NAM. HE SAID MANGILA WAS NOT ONLY UNAUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE ON SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT WAS NOT EVEN AUTHORIZED TO GO TO HANOI.

2. ACCORDING TO MARCOS, MANGILA HAD BEEN SENT TO SAIGON BY
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WAY OF VIENTIANE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING EVACUATION OF

NEARLY 1000 FILIPINOS AND DEPENDENTS IN SAIGON. HE WAS APPARENTLY TOLD BY DRV EMBASSY VIENTIANE THAT SUCH MATTERS HAD TO BE HANDLED IN HANOI. WITHOUT ORDERS, HE FLEW TO HANOI. THE RESULTANT COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST BY RADIO HANOI CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE AND SHOCK TO THE GOP.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, WHO WAS PRESENT WITH MARCOS, SAID THE SHOCK WAS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT GOP WAS ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV IN PARIS. DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS, DRV HAD PUT FORWARD BOTH DEMANDS ABOUT PROHIBITING USE OF U.S. FACILITIES AND THE TITLE TO FORMER GVN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. FORMER HAD BEEN CATEGORICALLY REJECTED BY GOP AND GOP HAD SAID LATTER WAS ISSUE BETWEEN USG AND PRG. HE WAS AMAZED, THEREFORE, TO HAVE HAD MANGILA ACCEPT BOTH OF THESE.

4. MARCOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR MANGILA'S BEHAVIOR. HE ASSUMED THE MAN WANTED THE CREDIT AND PUBLICITY FOR MAKING A BREAKTHROUGH WITH HANOI. HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH THE MAN, BUT HE WOULD NEVER LET HIM BE AN AMBASSADOR AGAIN.

5. I THANKED MARCOS FOR HIS EXPLANATION AND SAID I WOULD CONVEY HIS STATEMENT TO WASHINGTON. I WAS SURE THE USG WOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH THE GOP EMBARRASSMENT. HOWEVER, I SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH. THE STATEMENT WAS NOW ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. (A) IT RAISED VERY GREAT PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF FORMER GVN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GOP. (B) IT WOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO OTHER SEA COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THAILAND, WHICH MIGHT BE RECIPIENTS OF SUCH EQUIPMENT, AND (C) IT PRETENDED TO PUT LIMITS ON OUR USE OF OUR MILITARY FACILITIES BEYOND THOSE CONTAINED IN OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. I ASKED MARCOS HOW HE THOUGHT THESE MATTERS COULD BE RESOLVED.

6. MARCOS SAID THAT HIS PLAN IS, FIRST, TO INTERVIEW MANGILA WHEN HE ARRIVES IN MANILA AND FIND WHAT THE FACTS ARE. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO GOP STATEMENT CONFIRMING RELATIONS WITH THE DRV. SECOND, HE WILL INSTRUCT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN PARIS TO INFORM THE DRV THAT MANGILA ACTED WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND THAT THE COMMUNIQUE HAS NO RPT NO VALIDITY. NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE IN PARIS ON THE PREVIOUS BASIS. THIRD (HE THEN INSTRUCTED ROMULO) THE GOP WILL GIVE ALL ITS ASEAN PARTNERS THE SAME EXPLANATION HE HAD JUST GIVEN ME.

7. I ASKED WHETHER MARCOS THOUGHT THE DRV WOULD AGREE

TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS ON THE STATUS QUO ANTE. MARCOS SAID HE DOUBTED IT. HE ASSUMED THE DRV, BASED ON REPUDIATION, CLAIM IT WAS FORCED ON GOP BY THE USG, AND DENOUNCE THE GOP AS PERFIDIOUS PUPPETS. HE THEN ASSUMED DRV WOULD ATTEMPT TO USE FILIPINOS IN SAIGON AS HOSTAGES TO FORCE GOP TO ACCEPT THE COMMUNIQUE. IN SHORT, THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE WORSE IT GOT AND THE MORE INCENSED HE BECAME WITH MANGILA.

8. AT THIS POINT, ROMULO, WHO HAD BEEN SPLUTTERING ABOUT MANGILA ALL DURING THE INTERVIEW, SUGGESTED MANGILA BE SENT BACK TO HANOI TO "EAT CROW" AND RETRACT HIS COMMUNIQUE. MARCOS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO THINK ABOUT THAT. HE WASN'T SURE HE WOULD TRUST MANGILA TO DO ANYTHING.

9. I ENDED THE INTERVIEW BY REPEATING THAT I WOULD CONVEY OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ROMULO WITH ANY REACTIONS THE USG MIGHT HAVE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ASSURANCES ON THE QUESTION OF TITLE TO THE FORMER GVN EQUIPMENT. MARCOS SAID WE COULD HAVE ANY TYPE OF ASSURANCES WE NEED. HE HAD NO RPT NO INTENTION OF LETTING ANY OF THE MATERIAL RETURN TO VIET-NAM.

10. COMMENT: THE EMBARRASSMENT OF THE GOP IS ACUTE AT THIS MEMENT AND OBVIOUSLY GOING TO GET WORSE AS THE SCENARIO OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 7 UNFOLDS. GIVEN POROUS NATURE OF PHILIPPINES AND FACT THAT ASEAN ALLIES WILL BE INFORMED OF MANGILA'S MISFEASANCE, THE STORY IS BOUND TO BE PUBLIC SOON. HANOI'S GAME IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, BUT I AGREE WITH MARCOS THAT DRV WILL ATTEMPT TO PILLORY GOP AS U.S. PUPPET, FORCED TO REPUDIATE ITS ENVOY AND WILL DOUBTLESS BEGIN A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOP IN SAME FORM AS THAT AGAINST RTG. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT
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OUR BEST COURSE IS TO LET THIS SERIES OF EVENTS TAKE THEIR NATURAL COURSE.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: I HAVE DELIBERATELY LEFT OPTIONS OPEN IF DEPT WISHES TO SEEK SOME SORT OF ASSURANCE TO PROTECT AGAINST SURRENDER OF ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PRG. I SHOULD THINK THIS COULD BEST BE DONE BY A RECAPTURE CLAUSE IN THE TRANSFER DOCUMENTATION, BUT WOULD WELCOME DEPT GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT. SULLIVAN

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